

### To Those Who Can and Should Take a Stand:

This letter is to address a project known as the “Back 40” project. This an Aquila owned development that plans to mine an area very close to the Menominee River, outside of Menominee Michigan (the start of the UP). They make many claims that they will not pollute the river and this will have an economic impact on the area (creating 150 jobs).

For one thing this area has more job openings that it can fill. We are not economically repressed so this is not needed. But the real reason for this letter is to address why on earth we would ever even consider risking the irreplaceable gem that is the Menominee River by digging an 800 foot hole only yards away from the river and filling it with toxic sludge. This will remain a potential time bomb for centuries. The Menominee River is a Great lakes Seaport. It generates thousands of jobs in the area and is a world class fishery.

The Great Lakes are the largest freshwater system on the planet. Together they make up 20 percent of the world’s freshwater supply. It also provides more than 30 million people with clean drinking water. The Great lakes provide critical habitat for many fish and wildlife species. What does this have to do with the Menominee River? Plenty. The Menominee River is approximately 116 miles of moving water that forms a boundary between Michigan and Wisconsin. Many creeks along the way pour into this river, which ultimately pours into Lake Michigan, which connects to other Great Lakes. Along its course the Menominee River has a series of large reservoirs that contain some of the area’s deepest and cleanest lakes. Many of the lands around those waters are for recreational use.

What are we all thinking? This could contaminate our drinking water, affect the way we live our lives by ruining the water we fish, swim and play in. We seem to forget so quickly how damaging this action can be. Menominee Michigan is currently home to several fishing derby’s that attract fisherman from all 50 states. This year we are hosting the Cabela’s fishing tournament. Why? Because of our pristine waters and great fishing. This in turn draws many people to the area who spend money at local businesses (hotels, restaurants, shops, etc.). Who will want to come when the waters are polluted with cyanide?

Millions of dollars has been spent (local companies and grant monies) cleaning the toxic sludge that polluted the river in the 1960’s. Why are we allowing another company to pollute our river? And a foreign company at that. The Menominee River is not a dumping ground for this sludge just so these privately owned companies can make money. It is illegal to discharge any toxic substance that could reach our rivers and streams so why is this ok?

It is not if the toxins reach the river, it’s when. Currently the Menominee River has reached flooding stage numerous times in various areas. This sludge pit will be only feet from the Rivers edge so what do you think will happen when we get this annual flooding? Would you want this in your back yard? The Menominee River is literally my backyard as I live less than 30 feet from

the River.

I am sending this letter to senators and congressman and women who represent states that border any of the great lakes. It is time for us to unite and make a stand against this pollution. It will affect us all in the end.

**Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy**

A Concerned Wisconsin Resident who resides on the Menominee River and grew up swimming and playing in Lake Michigan waters.